

REMARKS

The office action of February 8, 2008, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to Walters.

Claims 6, 7 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Walters.

Finally, it is noted that claims 8 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has canceled claim 8 and amended claims 1 and 10.

With the Examiner's indication that claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, it is respectfully submitted that adding the subject matter of claim 8 to independent claim 1 places this claim in condition for allowance. Additionally, dependent claims 2-7 and 9-12, which depend from claim 1 are thus also in condition for allowance.

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In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of claims 1-7, 9, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 8, 2008.

By: 
Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: May 8, 2008